Sale of MIG-29 to India

259. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, during Prime Minister's visit to that country in May, 2005, offered the sale of MiG-29 to India and also to assist India in the manufacture of that aircraft in India;

(b) if so, the details of the two offers; and

(c) by when the manufacture of MiG-29 in India would commence and by when India's dependence on Russia for its manufacture would end?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Patriot Missile

260. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether America have committed to India to provide Patriot Advance Capability 3 Anti Missile Defence System for self defence and if so, how it will affect the defence preparedness by India;

(b) whether America have decided to provide F-16 Fighter Aircraft to India and whether India have accepted the said offer and if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether it is a fact that a new era has began as a result of Indo-American defence procurement agreements and how much improvement has taken place in our country's military power thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During Raksha Mantri. Shri Pranab Mukherjee's recent visit to the United States of America the US Department of Defence made a verbal offer to provide a technical briefing on the Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC)-3 antr-missle defence system to India. This is not a formal offer to sell the system. No date has been fixed for the briefing as yet. Its utility for India's defence preparedeness has still to be assessed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.